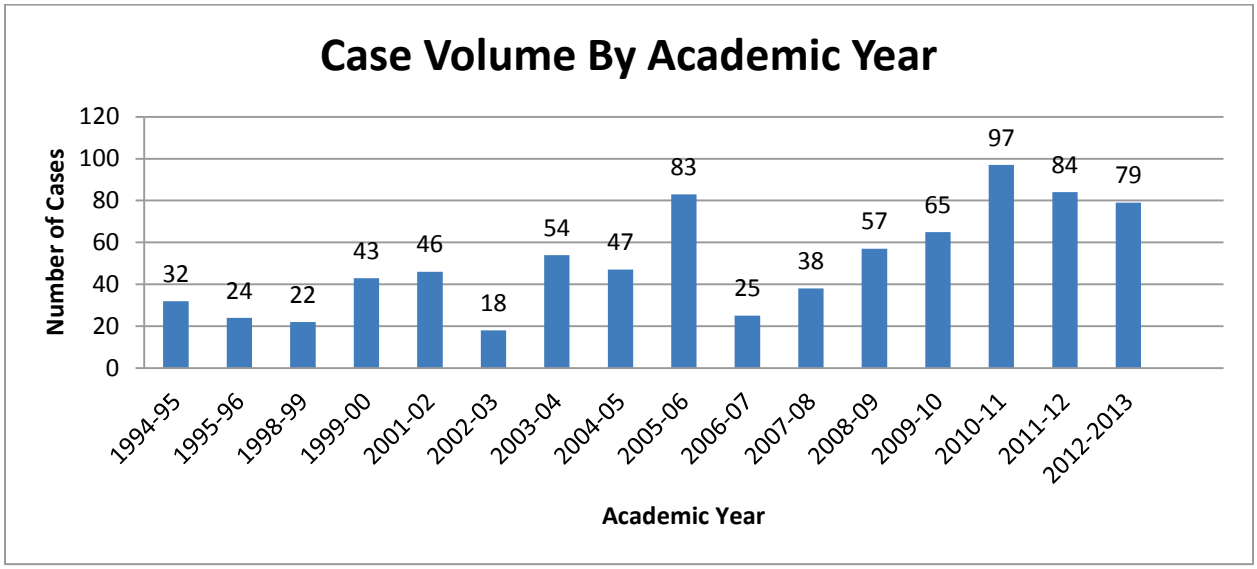
Honor Council Activity
Loyola University Maryland
Annual Report: 2012-2013
Compiled May, 2013

<u>Cases Adjudicated, 2012-2013</u>

73 sanction hearings
6 full hearings
79 completed hearings
Of these, six were repeat violations

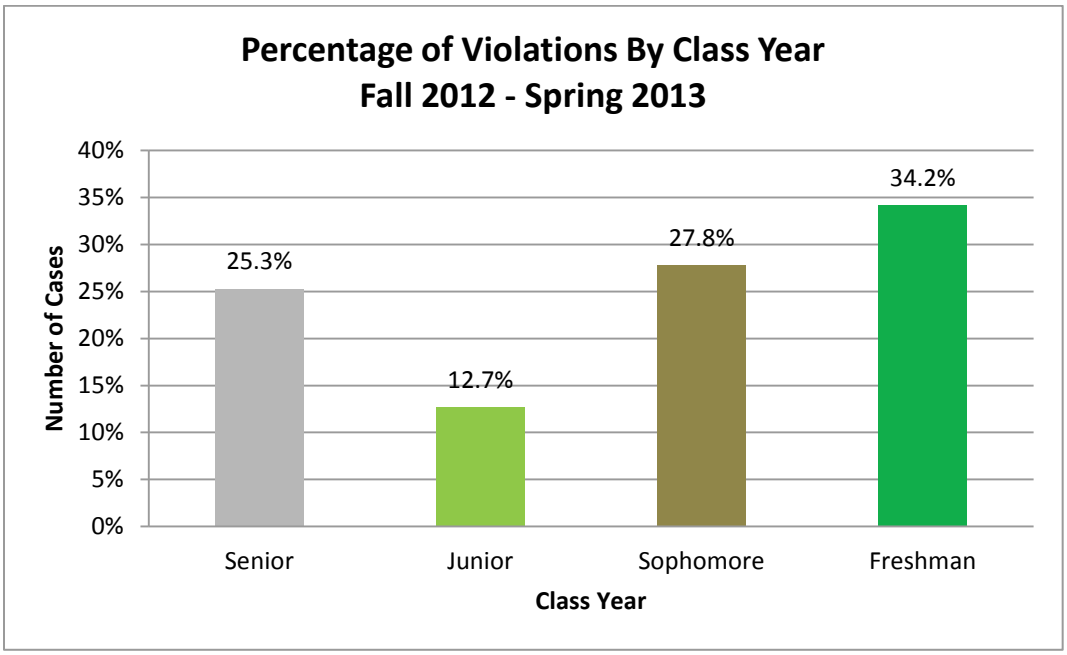


The case volume decreased for the second year in a row, down from an all-time high of 97 cases adjudicated in 2010-2011.

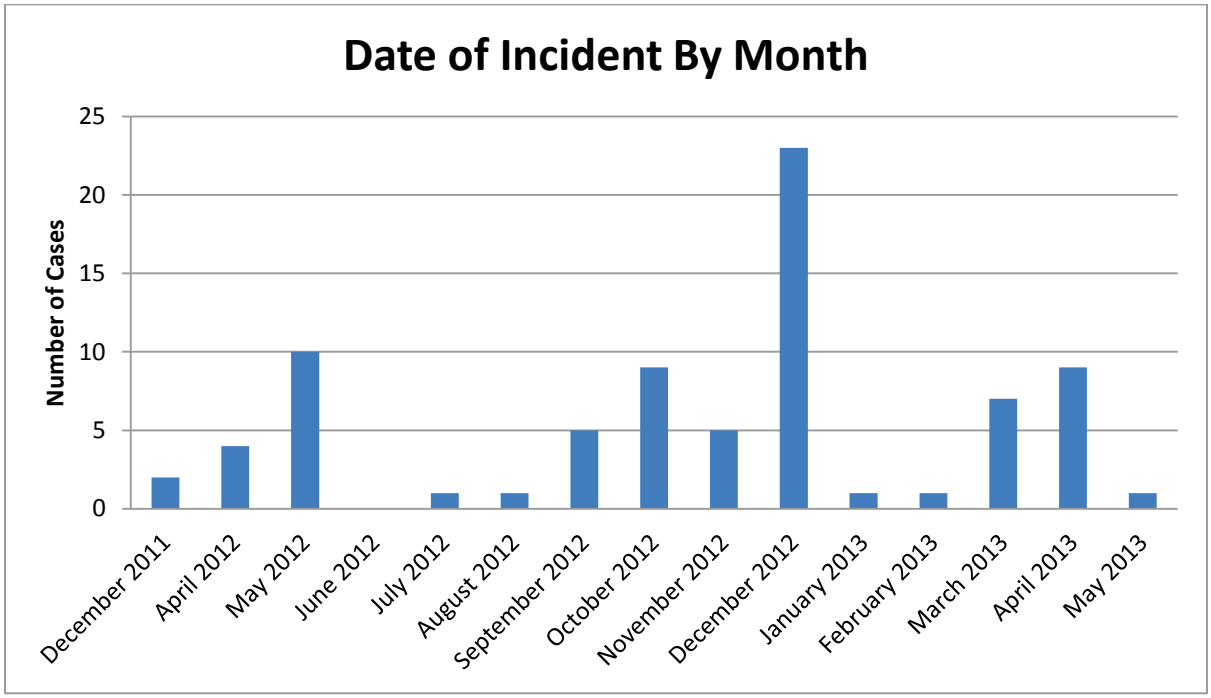
Examining the average number of cases adjudicated the past five years to cases between 6 and 10 years ago, however, we continue to find higher volume. One may hypothesize that greater reliance on the internet to complete assignments may be a factor, or perhaps that students do not perceive certain behaviors understood by the university to be plagiarism or cheating to be serious transgressions of one's integrity.

Honor Code Violations By Class Year

This academic year, the majority of violations reported concerned freshman students. This is consistent with last year, but a change from the previous two years, where sophomores had the most violations.

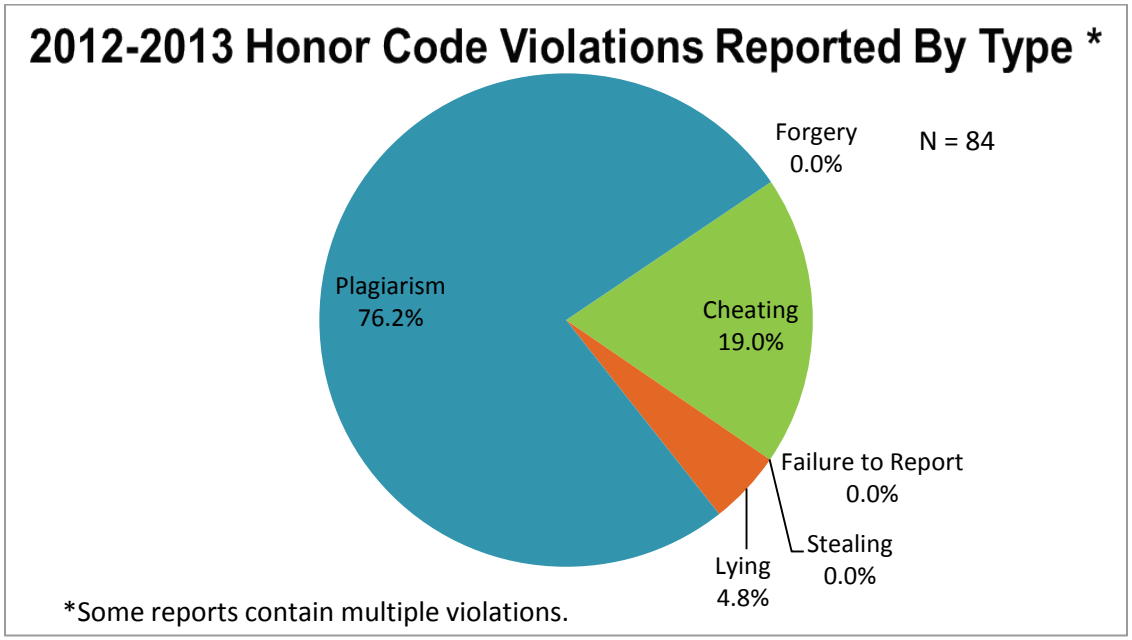


Honor Code Violations by Month



In this respect, the Honor Council sees a fairly consistent trend. Violation reports typically increase toward the close of each semester, usually with a smaller increase mid-semester. Based on the testimony of students in our sanction hearings, we speculate that the reason for this is a combination of: 1) more papers being due toward the middle and end of the semester, 2) students making poor choices or exhibiting carelessness as a result of stress or procrastination while experiencing heavy workloads during mid-terms and final exams. Note that the council does not categorize violations by whether they are "intentional" or not, as intentionality is extremely difficult to verify in a hearing.

Types of Violations Reported:

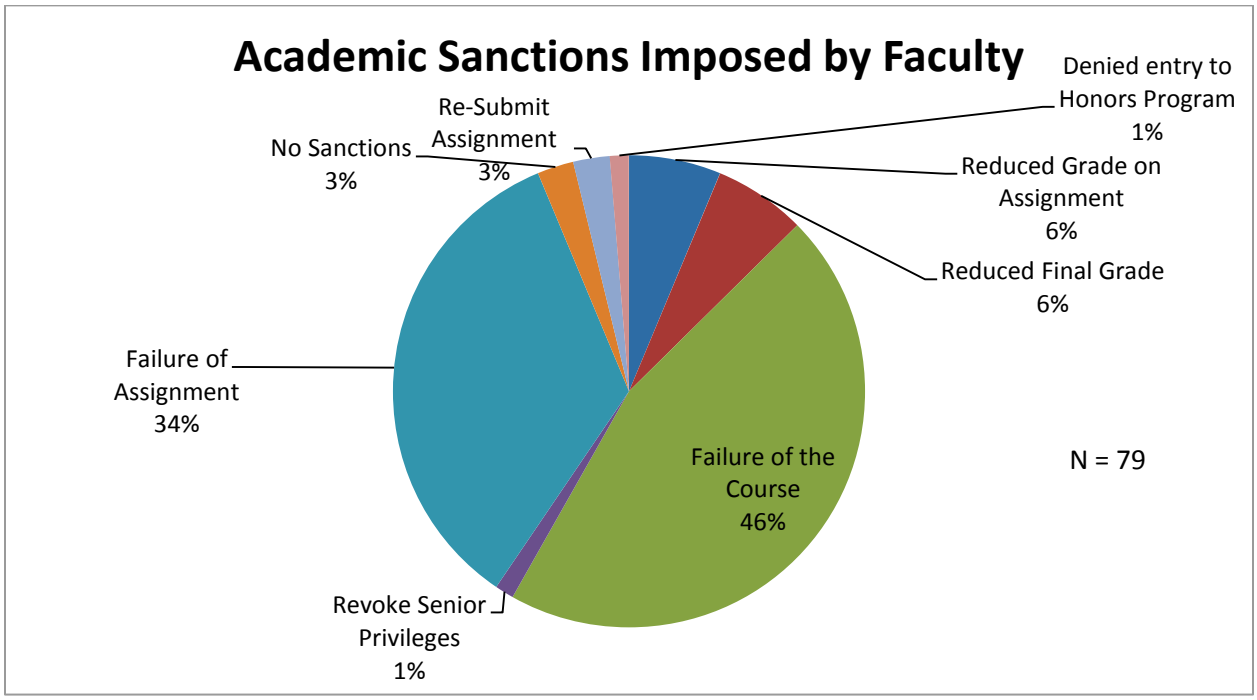


Violations Reported	Frequency	Percent
Plagiarism	64	76.2
Cheating	16	19.0
Lying	4	4.8
Stealing	0	0
Forgery	0	0
Failure to Report a Violation	0	0
Total	84	100.0

Out of the 84 total violations reported, the majority of violations were for plagiarism (76.2%). The next most frequently reported violation was for cheating (19%). The remaining reported violations were for lying in an academic matter (4.8%). The proportions of the types of violations committed have remained fairly consistent over the years, with plagiarism and cheating being the most common. However, this year the percentage of cheating violations

decreased from 35% to 19% of cases and the percentage of plagiarism violations increased from 49% to 76.2%. Also, the violations of stealing, forgery, and failure to report a violation were not reported during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Academic Sanctions Imposed by Faculty:



Sanction	Frequency	Percent
Failure of the Course	36	45.6
Failure of Assignment	27	34.2
Reduced Grade in Course	5	6.3
Reduced Grade on Assignment	5	6.3
Re-Submit Assignment	2	2.5
Revoke Senior Privileges	1	1.3
Denied from Honors Program*	1	1.3
No Sanctions	2	2.5
Total	79	100.0

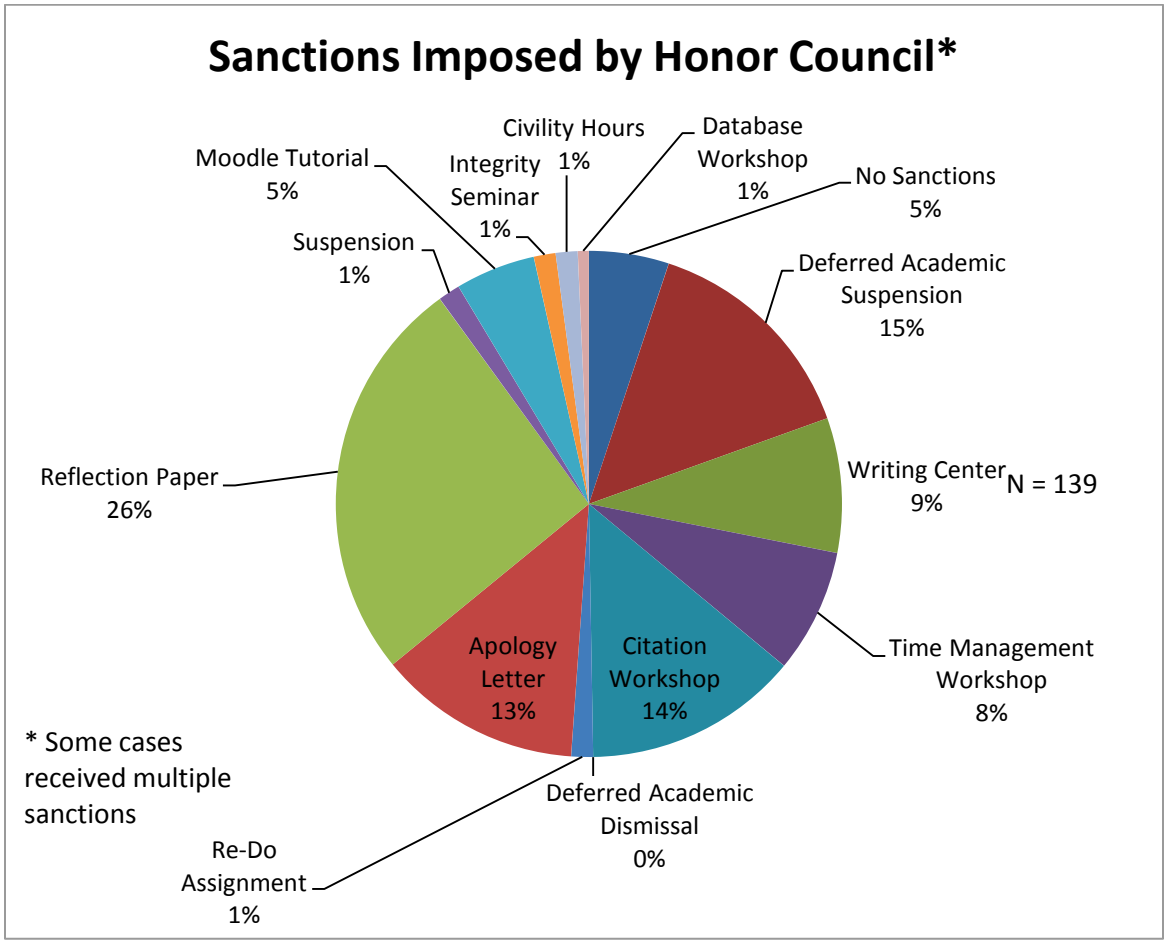
*Denial of entry to the Honors Program was imposed in an Admissions case concerning plagiarism regarding an Honors Program application.

A majority of the students who committed honor code violations received "Failure of course" (45.6%) and "Failure of Assignment" (34.2%) as academic sanctions, which is consistent with the proportion of academic sanctions in previous years. Several academic departments have a "one-sanction" policy for academic integrity violations, which is failure for the course, no matter the particulars of the offense. The Honor Council may add additional sanctions that are mostly educative in nature (see below).

Outcome of Hearings:

Of the six full hearings adjudicated in the 2012-2013 Academic Year, four cases resulted in a "responsible" finding, and two resulted in a "not responsible" decision. No individuals appealed the decisions of the honor council this year.

Sanctions Imposed By the Honor Council



Sanction	Frequency	Percent
Deferred Academic Suspension	20	14.4
Citation Workshop	19	13.7
Reflection Paper	36	25.9
Re-Do of assignment	2	1.4
Time Management Workshop	11	7.9
Writing Center	12	8.6
Apology Letter	18	13.0
Moodle Tutorial	7	5.1
Civility Hours	2	1.4
Academic Integrity Seminar	2	1.4
Suspension	2	1.4
No Additional Sanctions	7	5.1
Total	139	100.0

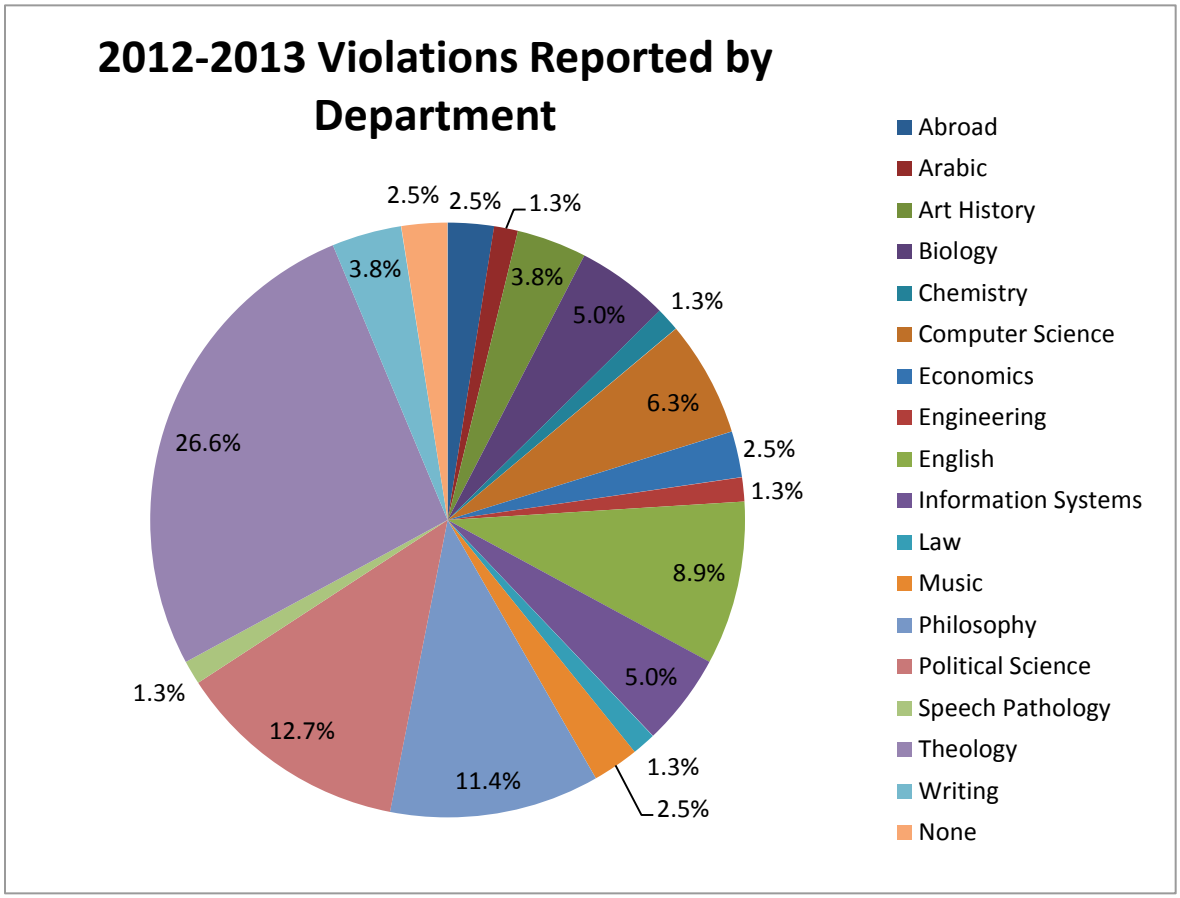
The Honor Council imposes sanctions to students based upon the Honor Code Violation Report that is completed by the accusing party, and the testimony of the accused student during a hearing. The most commonly imposed sanctions by the Honor Council in the 2012-2013 Academic year were a reflection paper (25.9 %), deferred academic suspension (14.4%), a citation workshop (13.7%), and an apology letter (13%). This year, two novel sanctions were utilized by the Honor Council: the Moodle Tutorial and Academic Integrity Seminar. The tutorial is taken online at the student's own pace, and is designed to help the student understand what constitutes a violation of the honor code. The Academic Integrity Seminar consists of a personalized selection of readings, often related to ethics and ethical decision making. Students taking the seminar are asked to write a series of reflections on the readings assigned, and a faculty member discusses the student's responses in a series of email interactions.

The Honor Council aims to be educative, while upholding the severity of violations in the Loyola Community. It is not unusual for the Honor Council to impose multiple sanctions in which they assign an educative (i.e. workshops) and a punitive sanction (i.e. deferred academic suspension).

Reporting Departments:

In the 2012-2013 Academic year, the majority of violations were reported by the Theology department (26.6%). The Political Science department (12.7%) and Philosophy department (11.9%) were the next most frequent academic departments to report a violation.

Two violations were reported regarding plagiarism in abroad courses, but were adjudicated when the students returned to Loyola University. The violations not assigned to an academic department include a plagiarism violation regarding an admissions application for the Honors Program and a lying in an academic manor violation regarding interactions with the Dean of First Year Students.



Violations Reported by Academic Department

Department	Percentage	Frequency
Abroad	2.5%	2
Arabic	1.3%	1
Art History	3.8%	3
Biology	5.0%	4
Chemistry	1.3%	1
Computer Science	6.3%	5
Economics	2.5%	2
Engineering	1.3%	1
English	8.9%	7
Information Systems	5.0%	4
Law	1.3%	1
Music	2.5%	2
Philosophy	11.4%	9
Political Science	12.7%	10
Speech Pathology	1.3%	1
Theology	26.6%	21
Writing	3.8%	3
None	2.5%	2
Total	100.0%	79